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# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

# REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF JERRY A. HAUSMAN

ON BEHALF OF CELLULAR ONE

D.P.U. 94-185

August 23, 1995

- My name is Jerry A. Hausman. I am the MacDonald Professor of
- 2 Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge,
- 3 Massachusetts 02139.
- 4 My qualifications, professional experience and curriculum vitae are
- 5 contained in my direct testimony filed in this proceeding and marked as Exhibit
- 6 CEL-1.
- 7 The purpose of my rebuttal testimony is to address certain of the issues
- 8 raised by the direct testimony of the parties in this proceeding.

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### I. Network Interconnection and Compensation Arrangements

- 11 A. NYNEX's Qualifying Standards for Mutual Compensation
- In this proceeding, New England Telephone and Telegraph Company
- 13 ("NYNEX") supports the concept of interconnection of carrier networks and access
- compensation between interconnecting carriers. However, NYNEX has proposed
- an overly restrictive definition of which interconnecting carriers would qualify for
- access, or mutual, compensation for the exchange of traffic with NYNEX. In the
- testimony of Paul J. Calabro, NYNEX proposes that only competitive local
- 18 exchange carriers that provide service in a large service territory and serve a
- 19 percentage of both residence and Lifeline customers comparable to the
- 20 percentage of such customers that NYNEX serves would be eligible for mutual

- compensation, or "access compensation," the term used by Mr. Calabro.
- 2 According to NYNEX's proposal, carriers would be required to report frequently
- 3 to the Department their number and type of customers. Carriers without service
- 4 characteristics comparable to NYNEX's would not be allowed to recover
- 5 compensation for providing access to and terminating traffic on their networks.
- 6 Calabro Direct Testimony, pp. 54-56.
- 7 In my opinion, such a proposal creates improper economic incentives which
- 8 would prevent competition from developing in the local exchange market in
- 9 Massachusetts. I would expect that only a very few, if any, carriers would meet
- the standards proposed by NYNEX. Furthermore, specialized competitors, who
- can be important to the competitive process, could be prevented from entering the
- market. I do not recommend that the Department adopt the qualifying
- 13 standards proposed by NYNEX.
- Instead, in its order in this proceeding, the Department should require
- 15 NYNEX to provide network interconnections to the facilities of other carriers at
- any technically feasible location. In addition, the Department should require
- 17 NYNEX, and other local exchange carriers, to provide compensation for the
- termination of calls on another carrier's facilities, including the facilities of
- 19 cellular carriers. The compensation should be based on the type of
- 20 interconnection used so that the local exchange and other carriers receive correct
- 21 economic incentives to choose the forms of interconnection which are

economically efficient. Mutual compensation between carriers should not be

denied on the basis of the type of interconnection between carriers.

in a competitive market.

H.R. 1555, passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on August 4, 1995, provides that interconnection between facilities-based carriers should occur at any technically feasible point on just and reasonable terms which provide for the mutual and reciprocal recovery by each carrier of the costs associated with the termination on such carrier's network facilities of calls that originate on the network facilities of another carrier. The legislation also provides that compensation should be based on a reasonable approximation of the additional costs of terminating such calls and the prices for termination that would prevail 

As I described in my previous testimony before the Department, Cellular One currently interconnects and exchanges traffic with NYNEX using two basic types of interconnection --- a Type I interconnection, which is a connection to a NYNEX end office, and a Type II interconnection, which is a connection to a NYNEX tandem switch. Transcript, Vol. 7, pp. 164-165. Tandem switches represent an added level of switching capability and are generally used to aggregate landline traffic such as long distance traffic. In many cases, cellular traffic need not be sent to tandem switches because cellular traffic is already aggregated at the cellular switch (the Mobile Telephone Switching Office or "MTSO"). Most of Cellular One's connections with NYNEX are over Type I interconnections.

The use of Type I interconnections allows Cellular One to design its system most efficiently from an engineering and economic standpoint and provide wide area toll-free calling scopes for its customers. Customers express a high degree of preference for such wide calling scopes, and Cellular One has designed its system to satisfy that customer demand. Indeed, my previous research into the cellular industry has demonstrated that the ability of cellular carriers to choose their type of interconnection with the landline network and increase calling scopes (where permitted by the MJF) have been important competitive strategies used by cellular companies to attract new customers. Restrictions on the ability of a cellular company to choose the most efficient means of interconnection would lead to decreased calling scopes, decreased cellular competition and harm to cellular customers. NYNEX has taken the position concerning interconnection and mutual compensation with Cellular One that it will only consider mutual compensation for the exchange of traffic with Cellular One over Type II interconnections, and that it will not provide mutual compensation for Type I interconnections. No reasonable economic or engineering basis exists for such an exclusion, and Cellular One should not be forced to confront improper economic incentives because of restrictions imposed by NYNEX based on the type of interconnection.

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The exchange of traffic between NYNEX and Cellular One, and compensation for that traffic exchange, should occur at NYNEX's end offices,

Otherwise, economic inefficiency will result.

- tandems or any other technically feasible locations. NYNEX's refusal to consider
- 2 mutual compensation for Type I interconnections effectively limits Cellular One
- 3 to exchanging traffic with NYNEX only at NYNEX's tandems. If NYNEX pays
- 4 mutual compensation only to carriers that connect at NYNEX tandems, the
- 5 network options that competing carriers can design and offer to their customers
- 6 will be restricted unnecessarily. The network structure of competing carriers will
- 7 be forced to resemble NYNEX's network structure due to the location of NYNEX
- 8 tandems and the requirement to interconnect at those tandems in order to
- 9 receive compensation for terminating traffic originating with NYNEX.
- This restriction imposed by NYNEX which reduces the economic incentive to use Type I interconnections could effectively eliminate the wide area calling
- successful competitive strategies that have utilized those calling scopes. It would

scopes that are currently enjoyed by Cellular One customers as well as the

- also inhibit the ability of other carriers to offer innovative network options to
- compete with NYNEX.

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- It is my understanding that NYNEX has also taken the position that
- carriers which connect with NYNEX by a Type I interconnection will be treated
- by NYNEX as large end users, or customers, and, therefore, will not be entitled to
- mutual, or access, compensation. This position will create economic inefficiency
- 20 and will limit competition. Cellular One offers service to the public and
- 21 maintains sophisticated switching and transport facilities. It is not an end user,
- but, rather is a facilities-based carrier that should be entitled to mutual

- compensation where it exchanges traffic with NYNEX. Cellular One's use of
- 2 Type I interconnections with NYNEX does not alter its status as a facilities-
- 3 based carrier.

## B. MCI's Proposal for Mutual Traffic Exchange

- In the testimony of Dr. Nina W. Cornell, MCI Telecommunications
- 6 Corporation ("MCI") proposes that the exchange of traffic between NYNEX and
- 7 interconnected competitive local carriers be based on the principal of mutual
- 8 traffic exchange, also known as "bill and keep." In my opinion, the Department
- 9 should not order the implementation of mutual traffic exchange between NYNEX
- 10 and competitive carriers.
- According to Dr. Cornell's proposal for mutual traffic exchange,
- interconnecting carriers would pay "in kind" rather than in cash for terminating
- traffic originated by customers of the other carrier. Cornell Direct Testimony,
- p. 37. This proposal is essentially a noneconomic approach to the issue of the
- appropriate charges for interconnection between carriers. If adopted, it would
- have at least two harmful economic consequences:
- The economic costs of interconnecting with the networks of other
- carriers would not be reflected in a price for interconnection. As a
- result, interconnecting carriers would make decisions as to the method
- and location of interconnection based in part on non-cost factors. This
- 21 outcome would lead to inefficient interconnections.

New entrants, such as MCImetro ATS, and other competitive carriers, would be permitted to free ride off the investments made in existing networks by companies such as Cellular One and NYNEX. This free riding will create disincentives for network investment by competitive carriers, and consequently the telecommunications networks that develop in Massachusetts may not be as efficient and modern as the networks that would develop if mutual traffic exchange were not adopted.

## (1) Mutual Traffic Exchange and Economic Efficiency

The interconnection of telecommunication networks and resulting termination of traffic on one carrier's network originating from another carrier's network imposes costs on the terminating carrier's network. In my direct testimony in this proceeding, I indicated that a terminating carrier should be compensated for the costs it incurs in terminating traffic on its network, and the originating carrier should bear the cost its traffic imposes on the terminating carrier. Cost-based prices and the price signals they represent are necessary to enable buyers and sellers, or in this case, interconnecting carriers, to make economically efficient interconnection decisions that will produce the overall least cost interconnection arrangements. These principals are basic and should not be controversial. They have been widely recognized by economists and have been adopted by the Department on numerous occasions.

Dr. Cornell, however, ignores these principles and proposes a system of 1 2 interconnection whereby there are no price signals as to the costs that interconnection imposes on terminating carriers' networks. Without proper price 3 signals, competitive carriers will not make economically efficient interconnection investment decisions. Instead, competitive carriers will attempt to use existing 5 networks to minimize their own interconnection costs while disregarding the 6 7 costs they will be imposing on the existing networks that terminate their traffic. Economic systems based on no, or inadequate, prices for the acquisition of 8 the inputs of production, such as advocated by Dr. Cornell, have been found to 9 create large amounts of economic inefficiency. For instance, in the former Soviet 10 11 Union, there was insufficient economic incentive to economize on the use of oil, 12 an important input to industrial processes, because oil did not have an 13 appropriate economic price. Much oil was wasted, and the Soviet oil industry did not have sufficient revenue to invest in oil production. The result was the 14 precipitous decline of the Soviet oil industry. Only recently, with massive 15 16 U.S. investment, has the Soviet oil industry begun to recover. 17 In support of her proposal that compensation for the exchange of traffic be 18 "in kind" rather than in cash, Dr. Cornell states that interconnection traffic between competing carrier networks will tend to be in balance over time. Cornell . 19 20 Direct Testimony, pp. 15, 41. For most competitive carriers, including Cellular One, the minutes of terminating and originating traffic with NYNEX are 21 22 nowhere near in balance now, and I see no economic reason to expect that traffic

between carriers will balance out in the future. Nor do I expect the incremental

2 costs of interconnection to be similar for NYNEX and competing carriers. As

3 more competition develops in the local exchange and intraLATA markets, niche

4 markets will develop to be served by niche competitors, and I do not believe that

there is a sound basis to conclude that traffic between these providers will be in

balance.

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7 Cellular One's interconnection arrangements with NYNEX provide an example as to why interconnection charges should be cost-based and why Dr. -8 Cornell's approach would lead to inefficient network interconnections. Cellular 9 10 One uses Type I interconnections for the majority of its traffic exchanged with 11 NYNEX. In most cases, Cellular One's choice of the Type I interconnection 12 results in more efficient interconnections with NYNEX than would occur with 13 Type II interconnections and allows Cellular One to offer large toll-free calling 14 areas to customers. A Type I interconnection also avoids the use of the NYNEX tandem switches. 15

If Cellular One did not have to pay NYNEX for interconnection, as suggested by Dr. Cornell, Cellular One could disregard the cost to NYNEX of interconnection, and could choose the method and location of interconnection which created the lowest costs for Cellular One. This could then create higher costs for NYNEX and higher overall costs for both networks. The result would be economically inefficient and would represent a waste of society's resources.

1 If NYNEX, under Dr. Cornell's proposal, were not permitted to charge Cellular One for interconnection, NYNEX might well decide to offer only a single 2 type of interconnection that resulted in the lowest overall costs to NYNEX, but 3 higher costs to Cellular One and overall higher combined interconnection costs. 4 Furthermore, if NYNEX decided to offer only Type II interconnections, Cellular 5 6 One would no longer have a choice of the type of interconnection which is best 7 from a cost and competitive basis. This approach might restrict the ability of Cellular One to design its system to meet customer demand and could lead to a 8 9 decrease in the variety of service offerings available to cellular customers. A variation of Dr. Cornell's proposal that would use "bill and keep" for most 10 of the traffic exchanged and only provide for payments for imbalances in 11 12 interconnection traffic creates the same type of economic problems. Under this 13 variation, if it is assumed that 90% of the traffic balanced out, but only 10% of the traffic was not in balance and, therefore, subject to compensation, it is 14 unlikely that the 10% of the traffic not in balance would be a sufficiently large 15 amount to induce NYNEX to offer both types of interconnection. Instead, 16 17 NYNEX could well decide to choose its least cost method of providing interconnection to Cellular One without taking any account of Cellular One's 18 19 costs. Even with this variation of Dr. Cornell's proposal, incorrect economic signals (prices) would exist and economic inefficiency could well be the result. 20 21 These examples demonstrate why prices are necessary to ensure an

economically efficient allocation of economic resources. Cellular One (and other

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- service providers) should be able to choose the most efficient form of
- 2 interconnection based on correct prices, consumer demand, and competitive
- 3 conditions.

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## (2) Free Riding

Dr. Cornell's proposal for mutual traffic exchange will also create 5 freeriding incentives for new entrants. Companies that have constructed 6 networks can only recover their investments if they are paid prices for the use of 7 8 their networks which reflect the economic costs associated with that usage. However, Dr. Cornell's proposal ignores the costs of network usage. Instead, it 9 creates an incentive for a new entrant that has not constructed a network to 10 11 minimize its network costs and take advantage of existing networks while not paying for such network usage. A proposal such as this that does not reflect all 12 economic costs will result in market failure. This is known as the externality 13 problem in economics and is one of the most important causes of market failure. 14 15 If the interconnection policy adopted by the Department does not allow companies to recover the costs they incur in terminating traffic, they will not 16 make the necessary investment in network facilities. Similarly, companies that 17 are allowed a free ride on existing networks also will not receive the necessary 18 incentives to make investments in network construction. Thus, the phenomenon 19 of free riding leads to decreased investment and will ultimately result in a less 20 efficient telecommunications network and less choice for consumers. 21

As new competitors enter the telecommunications market and the costs of

2 providing telecommunications services vary greatly between interconnecting

- 3 networks with technological and other changes, it is imperative that
- 4 interconnection rates reflect economic costs. A system such as that proposed by
- 5 Dr. Cornell which has no price signals and price incentives is ill-suited to the
- 6 rapid changes which will occur in the telecommunications marketplace and will
- 7 not result in the construction of the most economically efficient
- 8 telecommunications network in Massachusetts.
- Decreased investment in telecommunication networks will cause less choice
  for consumers and decreased economic welfare. Free riding inevitably has this
  outcome. New entrants, such as MCImetro, should pay their economic costs so
  that market failure does not occur. Markets work properly when prices reflect
  economic costs. The Department should attempt to design interconnection
  arrangements in Massachusetts so that prices and costs lead to economic efficient

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outcomes.

# II. IntraLATA Toll Presubscription

A number of parties to this proceeding support requiring intraLATA

presubscription. Direct Testimony of Joseph Dunbar on behalf of MCI; Direct

Testimony of William D. Salvatore on behalf of AT&T Communications of New

1 England, Inc. In my opinion, it is not appropriate to apply intraLATA toll

2 presubscription requirements to cellular carriers. 1

There is already substantial cellular competition, and with the advent of at

least 3, and perhaps as many as 6, new personal communications services

5 ("PCS") providers, mobile competition will increase. Presubscription would

6 hinder the flexibility of cellular carriers to offer services to the public and would

7 decrease competition. For example, wide area calling plans for cellular

8 customers that do not adhere to LATA boundaries, e.g. the "City of Florida" plan

9 used by McCaw/AT&T, have proven to very popular with cellular customers.

As I have indicated in my previous testimony before the Department, certain long distance companies are currently price-discriminating against cellular carriers and their customers.<sup>2</sup> Despite costs which are about 25-40% lower than their landline long distance costs, AT&T, MCI, and Sprint almost always charge the full undiscounted price for cellular long distance. Thus, these companies are price-discriminating against cellular customers. When AirTouch separated from Pacific Telesis last year and was no longer required to provide

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19 1/</sup> In a previous affidavit to the FCC I determined that presubscription for interLATA toll should not be required for cellular. In that affidavit I

calculated that required interLATA presubscription for BOC cellular

customers cost consumers approximately \$900 million per year in higher long

distance charges. See Affidavit of Jerry A. Hausman submitted to the FCC,

"In the Matter of Fauel Agency and Interconnection Obligations Portaining to

<sup>&</sup>quot;In the Matter of Equal Access and Interconnection Obligations Pertaining to

Commercial Mobile Radio Services" (CC Docket No. 94-54), Sept. 7, 1994,

attached here as Appendix A.

<sup>27 28 2/</sup> See Affidavit of Jerry Hausman, submitted to the FCC on Sept. 7, 1994, op. cit.

- 1 presubscription for its interLATA long distance calls, it decreased interLATA
- 2 long distance charges by about 40%. When a cellular company can buy long
- distance transmission in bulk, it is able to resell the service to its customers at a
- 4 significantly lower price than the IXCs charge. Thus, given the anti-competitive
- 5 behavior of the major IXCs with respect to cellular customers and the
- 6 competition which currently exists for cellular, requiring intraLATA
- 7 presubscription would likely harm consumers by leading to higher intraLATA
- 8 long distance prices for cellular customers.
- 9 However, if intraLATA presubscription is required, not all intraLATA
- competitors should be required to contribute to the recovery of presubscription
- costs, as has been recommended in this case; c.f. Testimony of Michael J. Nelson
- 12 for Sprint Communications Company, p. 17 of 24. Only carriers who participate
- as intraLATA toll competitors should contribute to the recovery of
- presubscription costs. If a provider is not providing intraLATA landline toll
- service, it should not be required to bear the costs of intraLATA presubscription.
- Many cellular systems are designed to eliminate the concept of intraLATA
- toll calling. This is accomplished by engineering wide area calling scopes that do
- not require toll charges. These calling scopes often bear no relationship to the
- 19 LATA and toll boundaries used by the RBOCs. This result is not surprising since
- 20 the LATA boundaries were originally designed to provide a minimum number of
- 21 landline customers such that an IXC, other than AT&T, could attract a sufficient
- 22 number of customers to be competitive. The LATA boundaries had no association

- with cellular telephone systems which had not even begun service in the United
- 2 States at the time of the LATA boundary determinations. Therefore, cellular
- 3 carriers who do not provide intraLATA toll service for their customers should not
- bear the costs of intraLATA toll presubscription. LATAs should only be used
- 5 with respect to landline voice services; they should not be used with respect to
- 6 mobile services or with respect to information services.

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## III. Unbundling and Pricing of NYNEX's Network Elements

Consistent with H.R. 1555, the Department should require NYNEX to offer services, elements, features and functions of its network for resale at nondiscriminatory prices and at wholesale rates. The pricing for resale should recognize the costs avoided by NYNEX in not selling the retail service. For example, the provision of wholesale service by NYNEX should not require the incurrence of expenses for items such as billing, uncollectibles, service order processing, sales, product marketing and advertising. In general, usage sensitive pricing is to be preferred, except, for example, where an unbundled loop is being offered by a LEC as part of a flat rate plan, in which case the unbundled loop price should reflect the costs reasonably avoided by the wholesale sale.

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## IV. Provision of Number Resources

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NYNEX has proposed that it be allowed to recover the costs of 2 administering the assignment of numbers under the North American Numbering 3 Plan. Calabro Direct Testimony, p. 27. 4 5 In assigning new NXX codes to competitive carriers, NYNEX, or a neutral number administrator, if one is selected, should not charge those competitors for 6 the switching-related costs of assigning the new codes. Instead, competing 7 carriers should only be charged for the actual costs of administration related to 8 the assignment of NXX codes. The assignment of new NXX codes to any telecommunications provider 10 creates costs for the entire telecommunications marketplace. Carriers must incur 11 12 switch translation costs to update code and routing tables in their switches. 13 Because these costs are widely distributed, no single entity, such as NYNEX, should be able to impose charges for these costs upon other competing carriers. 14 Instead, all providers should absorb their switch translation costs as a cost of 15 16 doing business. If NYNEX is to continue to assign NXX codes, or if a neutral 17 number administrator takes on the responsibility for assigning new NXX codes, the administrator should be able to recover in a non-discriminatory manner from 18 all carriers only the costs of administration for the number assignment, such as

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costs required to update the national number database.

V. 1 Universal Service - Dr. Taylor's Analysis of Funding for Universal Service 2 In responding to a question from the Department staff concerning universal 3 service and the recovery of the contribution that is built into all of NYNEX's 4 5 service prices, Dr. William E. Taylor, on behalf of NYNEX, proposed a mechanism for "taxing the essential facility" to recover that contribution. 6 7 Transcript, Vol. 8, p. 140. He claims that his proposal to tax access would lead to smaller welfare losses for consumers than recovering the contribution through a 8 9 neutral funding mechanism such as a universal service fund because "demand is 10 the same, there's no welfare loss." Id. However, Dr. Taylor ignores the fact that the tax on the essential facility 11 (access) is included in the price of long distance toll calls where it typically 12 13 comprises about 40-50% of the cost for landline long distance. Because long 14 distance is among the most elastically demanded telecommunications services, the "tax on the essential facility" will lead to higher long distance prices and 15 lower long distance demand.<sup>3</sup> In previous academic research I have estimated 16 that the current federal access mechanism costs consumers over \$1 billion per 17 year in lost consumer welfare. Additional welfare losses of approximately the 18

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same order of magnitude are created by state imposed taxes on access. Thus,

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Thus, Dr. Taylor has considered only the direct demand for access and forgotten to take account of the derived demand for access which arises from demand for long distance services.

- contrary to Dr. Taylor's testimony, taxes on access lead to very large consumer
- 2 welfare losses.

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- 3 My other area of disagreement with Dr. Taylor's universal service proposal
- is his assumption that no bypass competition exists for the essential facility. <u>Id.</u>,
- 5 pp. 139-140. Bypass competition currently exists, and I expect it to increase
- 6 greatly in the near future as companies such as MCI, Sprint, and AT&T as well
- 7 as the CAPs expand their offerings. As I explained in my direct testimony, since
- 8 access is an intermediate good, it should not be taxed under economically
- 9 efficient tax and subsidy frameworks. Dr. Taylor's proposal will create
- unnecessary economic inefficiency in order to fund universal service.

This concludes my rebuttal testimony.

### Affidavit of Professor Jerry A. Hausman

- 1. My name is Jerry A. Hausman. I am the MacDonald Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02139.
- 2. I received an A.B. degree from Brown University and a B.Phil. and D. Phil. (Ph.D.) in Economics from Oxford University where I was a Marshall Scholar. My academic and research specialties are econometrics, the use of statistical models and techniques on economic data, and microeconomics, the study of consumer behavior and the behavior of firms. I teach a course in "Competition in Telecommunications" to graduate students in economics and business at MIT each year. Mobile telecommunications, including competitive and technological developments in cellular, ESMR, satellite, and PCS, are some of the primary topics covered in the course. I was a member of the editorial board of the Rand (formerly the Bell) Journal of Economics for the past 13 years. The Rand Journal is the leading economics journal of applied microeconomics and regulation. In December 1985, I received the John Bates Clark Award of the American Economic Association for the most "significant contributions to economics" by an economist under forty years of age. I have received numerous other academic and economic society awards. My curriculum vitae is attached.
- 3. I have done significant amounts of research in the telecommunications industry. My first experience in this area was in 1969 when I studied the Alaskan telephone system for the Army Corps of Engineers. Since that time, I have studied the demand for local measured service, the demand for intrastate toll service, consumer demands for new types of telecommunications